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John S. Nagy
John S. Nagy, Reg. No. 30,664

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

Inventors: Dang et al.

Serial No. 09/660,812

Filed: September 12, 2000

For: COVERED STENT ASSEMBLY
FOR REDUCED-SHORTENING
DURING STENT EXPANSION

Examiner: Urmi Chattopadhyay

Group Art Unit: 3738

Client ID/Matter No. ACS 54573 (2311P)

January 22, 2003

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box RCE
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is responsive to the final Office action of October 2, 2002, the response for which is due January 2, 2002. A request for a one-month extension of time is being filed concurrently herewith. Please amend and reconsider the above-referenced patent application.

C